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MEMORIALS

OF

PHEBE FIELD,

AND

ANNE MOTT.

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A TESTIMONY

Of Scipio Monthly Meeting, concerning PHEBE FIELD, *who departed this life* 31*st of Fifth month*, 1852, *aged eighty-four years, and a Minister about fifty years.*

Our valued friend, Phebe Field, was the daughter of Seaman and Dinah Hawxhurst, who were not connected with any religious denomination. She was born at Port-Chester, Westchester County, New York, in Third month 1768. By the dispensation of an all-wise Providence, her father was removed by death in the fifth year of her age, and she was adopted by her worthy relatives, Richard and Rebecca Titus; under whose religious care she was trained up agreeably to the principles of Friends.

Her mind was energetic, ardent, and affectionate, but prone to lightness and vanity, which led her from the path of simplicity; and she indulged for a time in pride and vain amusements. This career was, however, in mercy arrested by fearful apprehensions of Divine displeasure; and, yielding to the monitions of Truth, she was favored to see the sinfulness of the course she was pursuing, and strengthened to cease from further association with her gay companions in folly: and, through the power of Divine Grace, she was enabled to resist her natural inclination, take up the cross, and follow her Redeemer.

In after life our dear friend would frequently allude with deep regret, to the misspent portion of her youthful time, and plead with the young to dedicate the

morning of their days to their Saviour, through whose redeeming mercy they might be favored to secure "an inheritance incorruptible, and undefiled, and that fadeth not away."

In 1784, in the sixteenth year of her age, she was received, at her own request, into membership with Friends; and in 1785, she was united in marriage with our friend Jesse Field.

As she advanced in years, it was evident that an inward and spiritual work was in progress, and having, through the mercy of her Heavenly Father, been permitted to witness the purifying process of his Holy Spirit, she felt constrained to yield to an impression of duty that had for some time attended her, to testify unto others of his matchless love. Her public appearance in the ministry was with great diffidence and simplicity; but, in watchfulness dwelling under the sanctifying influence of the Holy Spirit, her gift became enlarged, and, in 1803, she was acknowledged as a minister by Amawalk Monthly Meeting.

In the year 1805, and again in 1807, with the approbation of Friends, she made extensive visits in Gospel love, to the northern and western parts of our Yearly Meeting, and also appointed some Meetings amongst those not of our religious society. At subsequent periods, she attended most of the Yearly Meetings on this Continent, and many of the Meetings constituting them—continuing, even in advanced life, unwearied in her exertions in accomplishing the work assigned her by her Father in Heaven. These arduous services she performed to the satisfaction of her friends, and to the peace of her own mind.

Phebe Field was peculiarly qualified for service

among those not of our religious Society. Being sound in word and doctrine, her communications as a minister of the Gospel, were instructive and edifying. She was anxiously concerned that the principles of Christianity, as professed by Friends, might be upheld in their primitive purity; and that the discipline and order of our Society might be sustained in their native simplicity.

In 1814 she removed, with her husband and family, and settled within the limits of this Monthly Meeting, where she continued to reside during the remainder of her protracted life.

Her amiable disposition and manners rendered her company interesting, and exerted a salutary influence on those around her. She was diligent in the attendance of all our religious Meetings, and her reverent waiting upon the Lord in them was instructive. It may truly be said of her, that she was a pillar in the Church, hewn and squared by the Master's own hand: and during the many trials and changes which were permitted in this part of the heritage, she was mercifully enabled to retain her integrity and standing in the Truth. Her interest in the welfare of our Society continued unabated to the close of her life.

She was deeply sensible of the responsible position of parents, and was often concerned to press upon them the importance of watching over their children with religious care, and, with gentle firmness, checking the buddings of error in their tender minds—often citing their attention to the pointings of Truth in their own hearts, as a preparation for training those under their care in the fear of the Lord.

In Second month 1834, after a lingering illness, her

husband was removed by death; which afflictive dispensation she was enabled to bear with Christian resignation. She felt tenderly for others in their affliction, and her sympathy and counsel were encouraging and consoling. Being of a meek and quiet spirit, watchful over her words and actions, her deportment was solid and exemplary, holding forth the inviting language, Come, follow me, as I endeavor to follow Christ.

With the increase of years her physical strength gradually failed, and for the last year of her life she was mostly confined to the house. Yet in great bodily weakness she did at times get out to Meeting, nearly the last of which was the Quarterly Meeting, in which her voice was raised in Gospel testimony, to the contriting of many hearts.

During her illness she was preserved in patience, and, with a mind mostly clear and bright, she imparted much pertinent counsel to those around her. To a friend who inquired how she was, she replied, "I think I am going very gently down: I have much to be thankful for, and, among other blessings, that I have no hard pain to endure."

For some weeks before her death she suffered much from extreme exhaustion. In reference to her sufferings, she frequently said to those around her, "I do not suffer too much; I am willing to suffer; it is light in comparison with what my dear Saviour suffered for me."

She frequently expressed her willingness to depart, saying she had been favored with an evidence that she would be accepted; but not for any works of righteousness that she had done: it was all in mercy, adorable mercy.

On taking leave of her dear sister, she said, "I have a well-grounded hope that my name is written in the Lamb's book of life, and that I shall be accepted."

She remarked that this is a beautiful world, but that she felt no regret at leaving it—her day's work was done; and she prayed for a release from her poor suffering body. At one time she said, "It would be desirable to go, but I am willing to wait the Lord's time."

She appeared conscious to the last—said her hold on life was almost over, and petitioned for a release, which in mercy was granted; and she passed quietly and sweetly away.

Thus she has come to the "grave in a full age, like a shock of corn cometh in in his season."

In recording the removal of one from amongst us whose concern it was, through the vicissitudes of a long life, to keep herself unspotted from the world, we desire to commemorate the loving kindness of Him, through whose grace she was what she was—whose support she sought in early life, and who condescended to be the sun and shield of her meridian day, and her stay and staff in the evening of life. And to her, we reverently believe, through the mercy of God in Christ Jesus our Lord, in which alone she trusted, may be applied the language, "Blessed are the dead which die in the Lord from henceforth: yea saith the Spirit, that they may rest from their labors; and their works do follow them."

MEMORIAL

Of New York Monthly Meeting, concerning ANNE MOTT.

Anne Mott was the daughter of James and Mary Mott, and was born in the city of New York, on the thirty-first of Seventh month, 1768.

In childhood, whilst yet too young fully to appreciate the loss, her most excellent mother was removed by death. By this event the care of a young family, all under eight years of age, devolved upon their surviving parent, whose religious concern and solicitude to train them up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord, were remarkably blessed.

She possessed a sprightly and affable disposition, combined with a vigorous and comprehensive mind, which endeared her to her friends and acquaintance.

By her own untiring efforts, aided by the attentive care of her father in instructing her in literature, she in great measure overcame the difficulties which the want of schools at that period presented. Being fond of reading, her mind was stored with useful knowledge; and it proved a source of enjoyment to her even in advanced age.

She became much interested in the subject of education, and engaged in promoting the establishment of schools, and encouraged Friends in remote situations to form family schools.

In the seventeenth year of her age, she was united in marriage with our late esteemed friend Adam Mott, and entered upon the important duties of wife and mistress of a family, with that cheerfulness and devotedness with which she was wont to perform her duty, and with that Christian dignity and consistency which characterized her through life.

As a mother she was diligent in watching opportunities to improve the expanding minds of her children, not only to instruct them in the knowledge of temporal things, but to impress them with the beauty and superior excellency of a life of piety and virtue.

When a large business brought a number of young men into their employ, and made some of them inmates of their family, she felt the responsibility resting upon her, and assiduously endeavored to promote their comfort and improvement, often introducing at meals and on other occasions pleasant and instructive conversation, tending to encourage and strengthen them to walk in the right way.

In a letter to a young friend she wrote, "I have often thought that our preservation very much depends on a careful observance of manifested duty, in what are termed little things; for now, as formerly, it is by faithfulness in the little, that any become rulers over more. Guard, then, against small deviations, which, perhaps, could they be viewed only in the abstract, would not be considered of much moment; but when taken in the connection, have the effect to break down the hedge which encloses the promising but tender plant, and leave it exposed to be trodden under foot."

"My desire is that thou may beware of allowing the example of others to lead thee into practices which thy own observation must convince thee are pernicious; one among these is, the neglect of attending week-day meetings. I am sensible of the difficulties supposed to arise from a careful attention of this duty, but believe they are mostly imaginary, and that a steady perseverance will not only vanquish

them, but afford strength to overcome other besetments."

For many years she filled with acceptance various important stations in our religious Society. In the administration of its discipline, she was particularly useful.

In the capacity of Clerk to the Yearly Meeting, (a service for which she was well qualified,) it was instructive to observe the kind and respectful attention which she gave to the remarks of the diffident, those to whom it was an effort to offer a sentiment.

As an Elder she was highly esteemed. Her sympathizing and discerning spirit was often exercised for the benefit of those who labored in word and doctrine; and so tender was her manner on such occasions, that her advice and admonitions were freely received and appreciated.

At a period when our remote Quarterly Meetings were being settled, she was often appointed, in conjunction with other Friends, to visit them, and was very serviceable in their right establishment. In a letter written to her family, when on one of these journies in 1808, she says, "I had cherished the hope of being released at this place, yet I have desired to be preserved from an over anxiety about it, and to submit to every dispensation that may be meted out to me, however trying to my nature. Mental aspirations have arisen, that the Father of mercies would regard your lonely dwelling." To her children she writes, "The silent language of circumspect conduct is indeed sweetly persuasive; and this you may be enabled to hold forth, as you carefully attend to the admonitions of the Divine Monitor in your own

breasts. Seek retirement, and love it; listening, as in the cool of the day, to the gentle intimations of that voice which condemns for evil, and strengthens to forsake it."

While she gave evidence of a strong attachment to the doctrines and the testimonies of the Society of Friends, she entertained no contracted views or sectarian feeling; in every Christian she recognized a brother, and evinced a warm esteem for all who she believed were sincerely endeavoring to promote the advancement of the Messiah's kingdom. This she fervently desired, and her cheerful temperament enabled her to look hopefully forward—believing that Gospel light is extending its blessed influence in the world.

Thus she was prepared to encourage every well-directed effort to meliorate the condition of her fellow-creatures; and she often remarked, "We must give evidence of our faith by our works; Christianity is a religion of active benevolence; if it does not bear this fruit, we have strong reason to fear that our profession of the Christian name is not well founded."

Very early in life, Anne Mott was impressed with the cruelty and injustice of slavery: she was often engaged to plead for the oppressed children of Africa, when her clear enunciation and persuasive manner, rendered her pathetic and heart-felt appeals effective in arousing the sympathies and convincing the judgment. She continued to manifest a deep and abiding interest in the cause of emancipation; and thought it right, consistently with her views in this respect, to abstain from articles produced by slave labor. Nearly the last time her voice was heard in a Meeting for

discipline, she addressed the Yearly Meeting feelingly and impressively on this subject.

She was one of the early friends of the temperance cause, advocating it uniformly by her example, and by precept when suitable opportunities offered; and she greatly rejoiced when Christians of other denominations, as well as our own Society, became interested in promoting a reformation in relation to this subject.

She was also careful to inculcate the principles of peace, and particularly desirous that these might be infused into the minds of children; believing, that by showing them the evils that result from a spirit of retaliation, and citing their attention to the direct commands of Christ, "Resist not evil," "Love your enemies," &c., through the benign influence of his Spirit in the heart, they might be impressed with the sinfulness of war, and its incompatibility with the Christian dispensation; and that, as they enter upon the active duties of life, a change would be wrought in the public mind.

The poor, and those in affliction, from whatever cause, were special objects of her regard and tender sympathy. The most degraded she treated with kindness and commiseration. To a friend she writes, "The poor have strong claims upon us; and how are we to taste the exquisite pleasure which arises from lessening their sorrows, unless strict economy provide the fund. First just, then generous, is the order we should always observe; just to ourselves, to our fellow-creatures, and to those faculties which were given us to render us good stewards of the manifold mercies received."

In the year 1839, she experienced a severe affliction' in the death of her beloved husband. In a letter written soon after this bereavement, she says, "His close was calm and peaceful; a happy change for him, I doubt not. But what a stroke to me! The severance of a union of more than fifty years, requires all the consolation that an unshaken belief in his becoming a sharer of that joy which is reserved for the righteous can impart." At another time she thus expresses herself: "How little do we know ourselves, or the changes that time and circumstances may make in our views and feelings! My heart is often sad, when I compare the hopes and expectations of former days with present experience; and turns with increased earnestness to that existence, where hope faileth not, and disappointment is unknown. At these seasons, what an anchor is it to have our dependance placed upon Him who so loved us, as to give himself for us, and has prepared a mansion for all those who trust and serve Him!"

With her younger friends, Anne Mott was remarkably companionable. She entered into their feelings with peculiar facility, and often became their counsellor and sympathizing friend. When surrounded by these, she would endeavor to incite in them a love of the Christian virtues, and that charity for the weakness and failings of others, which so conspicuously marked her own character. Aided by a retentive memory, she would relate striking incidents connected with the members of our Society; and desire them to peruse its history, that they might be convinced of the rectitude of our principles and testimonies—assuring them they would find that they are

founded on the doctrines and precepts of our Saviour as contained in the New Testament.

Being gifted with a clear understanding of the Holy Scriptures, she highly appreciated them, andwas concerned to recommend the *daily* reading of them.

In the evening of her days, when the infirmities of declining years rendered it necessary to relinquish most of her active duties, her concern for the welfare of our religious Society, and that of her fellow-creatures, of whatever class or name, continued unabated.

She was diligent in the attendance of our religious Meetings, and considered it a privilege that she was enabled to perform this duty almost to the close of her life, though at times in much debility of body. The sweetness and quiet solemnity of her countenance on these occasions, indicated that her mind was reverently stayed upon Him who "satisfieth the longing soul, and filleth the hungry soul with goodness."

A few weeks prior to her decease, she accompanied her daughter to her residence in the city of Rochester, where, after a short illness, she departed this life, on the fifth of Eighth month, 1852, aged eighty-four years.

Thus this beloved and honored friend, in humility and cheerful dedication, passed through a long life of active usefulness; and having, through Divine grace, been enabled to occupy the talents committed to her, we humbly trust she was permitted to receive the gracious answer—"Well done, thou good and faithful servant; thou hast been faithful over a few things, I will make thee ruler over many things; enter thou into the joy of thy Lord."

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